(c) Launch of ASTROSAT is planned during the middle of 2007.

Development of Weather Stations by ISRO

3853. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has developed Weather Stations in collaboration with private entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the details thereof with name of collaborator and terms of collaboration;

(c) whether the Weather Stations are functional;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) the level of accuracy of the data furnished by these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ISRO—Industry jointly developed Automatic Weather Station (AWS), is capable of collecting weather related data such as surface pressure, temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed etc., and transmitting them through data relay transponders of INSAT/KALPANA Satellites. This system is jointly developed by ISRO with the industrial partner M/s. Astra Microwave Products Limited (AMPL), Hyderabad. A productionisation agreement has been entered into with AMPL for the production and supply of AWS to be deployed in various parts of the country.

(c) and (d) The prototype of AWS has been successfully demonstrated and currently validation of the system is in progress jointly with the user community. The industry will commence regular supply in a phased manner from mid-2005.

(e) The level of accuracy of various meteorological parameters measured from the Automatic Weather Stations meets the user requirements.

Status of the manned mission to moon

3854. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have plans to send a manned mission to moon within a few years; and